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1 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William Colby, Executive Director-Comptroller

SUBJECT: Declassification -- Advance Tip on Request from Associated Press

Lewis Gulick, Associated Press State Department correspondent, told me today he would be writing a letter asking for CIA papers concerning the United States' role in the overthrow of the President of Guatemala in 1954.

We had a discussion about the broadness of this query. He said he was trying to follow the White House press release guidance. This suggested that inquiries be particular enough to enable the department concerned to identify the material, and the material be obtainable with only a reasonable amount of effort. He said his inquiry was not so specific as, for example, what Embassy Tegucigalpa said to Embassy Mexico City between 11:00 and 5:00 on a certain day. On the other hand, it was not so broad as to fall in the category of "Please give me all papers pertaining to CIA activities in 1954." He suggested that we be in touch with each other on how he should best phrase his question if the original request was not in proper order.

He said yesterday that he would have two queries. Today, he said he had decided to put the second query to the White House. This dealt with CIA recommendations concerning the Bay of Pigs.

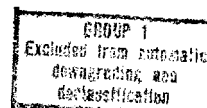
He said he had been to a couple of government departments today and had been met on one hand with stunned ignorance: "What executive order?" On the other hand he's seen a great flurry of general declassification activity, as opposed to response to any particular inquiry by any particular person.

When Lew's letter arrives I will be consulting the appropriate people promptly.

/s/ Angus MacLean Thuermer

Angus MacLean Thuermer  
Assistant to the Director

cc: The Director  
Office of General Counsel  
Office of Legislative Counsel



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